

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 28, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, we write to express our bipartisan support for Governor Robert F. McDonnell's appeal of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's denial of Individual Assistance for Louisa County and Hazard Mitigation statewide resulting from a 5.8 magnitude earthquake that occurred on August 23, 2011.

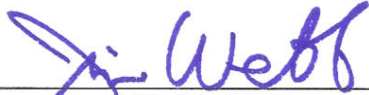
Mineral, Virginia was the epicenter of this historic earthquake, which was felt along much of the East Coast. Numerous aftershocks have followed, including the 41st aftershock that occurred as Louisa County officials met with Federal Emergency Management officials earlier this month. The supplemental joint Preliminary Damage Assessment confirmed that aftershocks are worsening the original damage in many structures.


Current damage assessments indicate that 1,404 households have reported damage to their homes – a 40 percent increase since the original request was submitted on September 20, 2011. The damage caused to foundations and chimneys will require specialized and complicated repairs. Given how rare this type of earthquake event has been in this area, the overwhelming majority of residents in this community lack earthquake insurance protection. Currently, some families are known to be living in unsafe homes. An adequate supply of affordable housing units does not exist within the county, or within a reasonable commuting distance, for families that may be required to relocate during repairs.

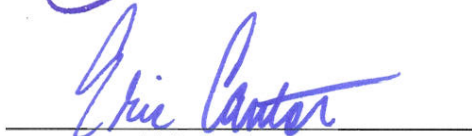
We commend the Commonwealth, Louisa County, and other localities for their coordinated response to this emergency, which has tested both state and local response and resources. The effects of the earthquake have caused this community and the Commonwealth to shoulder a great burden and prepare for a challenging recovery. This will prove enormously difficult without Federal assistance.

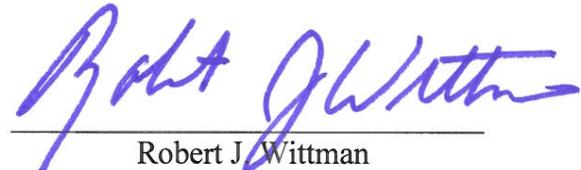
Pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, we request that you give serious consideration to Virginia's appeal and grant supplemental federal assistance for these communities. Thank you for your expeditious consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

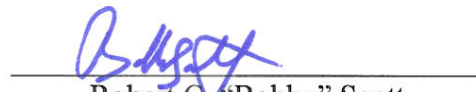

Jim Webb
United States Senator

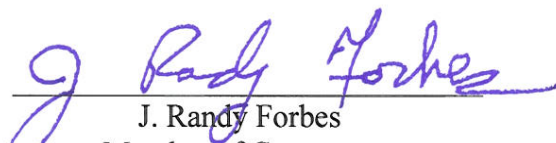

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

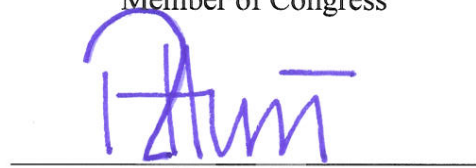

Eric I. Cantor
Member of Congress


Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

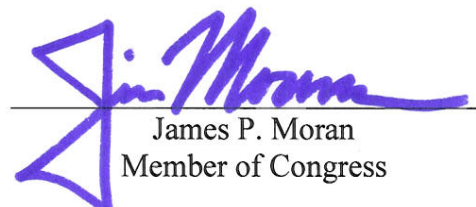

Scott Rigell
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

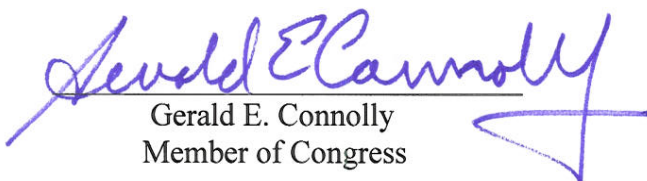

Robert Hurt
Member of Congress


Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress


James P. Moran
Member of Congress


H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress


Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress


Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress